

UNITED STATES SENATE

**Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations**

Sam Nunn, Chairman  
John H. Glenn, Jr., Vice Chairman  
William V. Roth, Jr., Ranking Minority Member

For Immediate Release  
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**SUBCOMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE  
TREATMENT AND RESETTLEMENT OF DEFECTORS  
FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND  
OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES**

Washington D.C. -- The resettlement and use of defectors from the Soviet Bloc will be the subject of three days of hearings of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. The hearings, to be chaired by Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), will be held on Thursday, October 8, 1987, at 9:30 a.m. and Friday, October 9th, at 9:30 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. An additional day of hearings will be held on Wednesday October 21, 1987.

Hearing testimony will examine the opportunities available to these individuals to fulfill their expectations in the United States as well as to significantly contribute to our society. The Subcommittee will also examine the difficulties these individuals routinely face in the resettlement process. Witnesses will include representatives of government agencies and private groups concerned with defector assistance programs, as well as a number of defectors who will recount their own experiences both in the United States and in the Soviet Union.

"The defector offers our country a unique insight into an otherwise closed world," said Chairman Nunn. "These individuals have spent their entire lives in a society which is otherwise shielded from us by a huge police and intelligence apparatus. Even if the actions taken under 'glasnost' begin to match the advance advertising, the Soviet Union will still have a long, long road to travel before they become what we can call a truly open society. We must learn to better assist and utilize the genuine defector, who usually arrives at our doorstep in his flight for freedom with nothing more than the shirt on his back. If we as a society ignore him, we may be turning our backs on the very important contributions that he can make, contributions which can be extremely valuable keys to learning more about our adversaries."

Senator William V. Roth, Jr. (R-Del.), the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee said, "We as Americans welcome all persons fleeing oppressive regimes, as spiritual cousins of our ancestors who left their homeland in search of freedom. But more than a welcoming spirit is needed to help the defectors integrate into American society. Defection is by its very nature a traumatic event for the individual, all the more so for those who emigrate from the restrictive societies of the Soviet bloc. There are very real difficulties presented in dealing with defectors and there are no simple answers to these difficulties. Nevertheless, many of these people have much to offer us as a nation and it serves the best interests of both the defector and our society to find the best outlet for these talents."

- 2 -

In light of the propaganda campaigns that the Soviets and other Communist countries launch after every defection, Senator Nunn cautioned that, "We are pleased by the news of some improvements in government resettlement efforts since the defection of KGB agent Vitaly Yurchenko. However, much remains to be done. We approach these hearings in a very positive and constructive manner that should be viewed by those behind the Iron Curtain as an encouraging event."

Senator Nunn stated, "the hearings will focus on an apparent vacuum in government programs for fully utilizing the important information and insight that defectors can provide. Equally troubling, we seem to be lacking in efforts to address the unique resettlement problems faced by those who come to us from a totalitarian culture."

The Subcommittee will look beyond the improvements now in place to determine if additional action is needed to ensure a better resettlement process for defectors. The Subcommittee will examine whether greater assistance for those fleeing totalitarianism is needed. Hearing testimony will also evaluate the current status of Soviet area studies both within and outside the government to determine if defectors could play a more important role in this arena.

Witnesses for October 8th and 9th will include:

The Honorable Gordon J. Humphrey  
United States Senate

The Honorable William H. Webster  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

Lieutenant General William E. Odom  
Director  
National Security Agency

John F. Sopko  
Deputy Chief Counsel  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Dr. Lawrence Martin-Bittman  
Professor, Boston University  
(Former Czech Intelligence Officer)

Witnesses for October 9th will include:

Leo Cherne, Chairman  
International Rescue Committee

Elena Alexandra Costa  
(The only successful defector from the Washington  
Soviet Embassy since World War II)

Dr. Aleksandr Ushakov  
(Successfully defected from the Soviet Union after  
a 19-day trek through the Caucasus Mountains into  
Turkey)

The witness list for the October 21st hearing will be available at the October 9th hearing.

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